

[c. 1947]

The committee appointed by Governor J. Strom Thurmond to study the best interests of the people of South Carolina in the proposed acquisition of Fort Moultrie and the Marshall Reservation, declared surplus by the Federal Government, will submit recommendations at an open hearing to be held at 11:30 A.M. on August 19 in the Senate Chamber of the Capitol Building in Columbia.

Governor Thurmond appointed the Committee, composed of representatives from various sections of South Carolina, as the result of the passage by the State Legislature of an Act which would permit the Township of Sullivan's Island to buy this historic property. He has received communications from many people asking him not to sign the Act, but to secure Fort Moultrie and the Marshall Reservation for the State and make it into a State Park.

"Whether the Fort and the Reservation go to the Township of Sullivan's Island or to the State, we must make sure that their facilities will be open to the people of South Carolina and the Nations. ^{the Governor said.} In all events we must protect the historic heritage of Fort Moultrie."

The Governor recalled that the Palmetto tree on the South Carolina State Flag is believed to have derived from the defense of Fort Moultrie, then known as Fort Sullivan, by Colonel William Moultrie in 1776. When the British invasion forces, consisting of eleven vessels under the command of Sir Peter Parker and nearly 3,000 British Regulars under the command of Lord Cornwallis, attacked the half finished fort, the blue Flag which the defenders flew had a crescent in the upper left hand corner and bore the word "Liberty".

General Charles Lee, commanding the American forces around Charleston, did not believe that the fort would hold out, and was going to remove Colonel Moultrie, who refused to obey his orders to evacuate, on the morning

when the two day engagement began on June 28, 1776. But the palmetto logs, backed up by sand, stopped the British cannon balls. The British abandoned the effort to reduce Fort Moultrie, as it was later called, and it was not until May 7, 1780 that they succeeded in taking Charlestown. At Fort Moultrie, also lies the grave of the famous Indian chief Osceola, who died in captivity after the Americans refused to honor their word to receive him under a flag of truce.

In addition to Mr. Bates, who is a member of the City Council of Capital Columbia and the President of the Life and Health Insurance Company, the members of the Committee are:

Honorable Robert M. Cooper, Director, Research, Planning, and Development Board, Columbia, South Carolina.

Honorable James H. Hammond, Chairman, South Carolina Public Service Authority, Columbia, South Carolina

Honorable J. B. Mahoney, Chairman, Board of Township Commissioners for Sullivan's Island, Charleston, S. C.

Honorable B. S. Meeks, Chairman, State Forestry Commission, Columbia, S. C.

Mrs. H. J. Munnerlyn, State Regent, South Carolina State Society of the DAR, Bennettsville, S. C.

Mr. Harold A. Petit, Member of the Charleston Exchange Club, Charleston, S. C.

Mrs. Archie Schiffley, Past President of the Orangeburg Garden Club, Orangeburg, S. C.

Mr. C. Lawson Scott, Manager, Stewart Merritt Company, Past President of Greenville Exchange Club, Greenville, S. C.